



MITT ROMNEY
GOVERNOR

KERRY HEALEY
LT. GOVERNOR

EDWARD A. FLYNN
SECRETARY

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety
Department of Fire Services
P.O. Box 1025 ~ State Road

Stow, Massachusetts 01775

(978) 567~3100 Fax: (978) 567~3121



STEPHEN D. COAN
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

THOMAS P. LEONARD
DEPUTY STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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Contact: Jennifer Mieth, (978) 567-3381
Chief Seth Knipe, (978) 928-4423

Hubbardston Chicken Barn Fire Unintentional

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan and Chief Seth Knipe said today that investigators have determined that the most probable cause of last Friday's fire in the barn at The Country Hen in Hubbardston was workers doing some maintenance work involving a propane heater.

The fire is being jointly investigated by members of the Hubbardston Fire and Police Departments, State Police investigators in the Office of the State Fire Marshal and agents from the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). The ATF assists in all large commercial fire loss investigations.

Coan said, "This is another example of how the nationally-recognized witness-driven, team-concept of fire investigation rapidly leads to solid cause determinations. In Massachusetts, federal, state and local fire investigators now have a long history of collaborating closely and cohesively to conduct effective fire investigations."

Chief Seth Knipe said, "A million dollar loss in a community like ours is devastating. It is important for the community to know quickly if a fire was intentionally set or accidental. I want to commend the team for their quick, thorough and professional investigation."